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## New shuttle launch target date is June 8



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

NASA is targeting June 8 as the next possible launch opportunity for Space Shuttle Atlantis' STS-117 mission to the International Space Station.

Managers decided to finish repairs of hail damage to Atlantis' current tank and use it for STS-117. The volume of repairs (approximately 2,660 sites) dictates moving the launch target to June.

Tuesday's decision by agency management followed a meeting that reviewed the progress in repairing the insulating foam on the shuttle's external fuel tank, assessing its use for the mission or swapping with one that arrived last week from the manufacturing plant in New Orleans. The tank that arrived Friday will be prepared for Space Shuttle Endeavour's STS-118 mission to the space station, now targeted for launch in August.

On **Endeavour**, the wing leading edge instrumentation system flight batteries were installed last week, and the space-to-space orbiter radio system checks were successful. Technicians have begun removing the orbiter's main engines in order to inspect for contaminants.

On **Discovery**, the orbiter's thermal protection system waterproofing is 90 percent complete. Leak checks on fuel cells No. 1 and 3 were completed.

**Did You Know?** Holocaust Remembrance Day begins at sundown on Sunday.

## Dawn arrives for processing for June 30 launch

Servicing of the water spray boiler system began last week, and fuel cell coolant servicing continues. Wire tray closeouts in the midbody are ongoing, and cargo bay closeouts are under way.

◆ **ELV Update:** Tuesday morning, two trucks (one air-ride, one flat-bed) delivered the Dawn spacecraft, as well as additional electrical and ground support equipment and xenon ground support equipment to Astrotech. The spacecraft has been removed from the container and moved into the high bay of the Payload Processing Facility.

Dawn's mission is to explore two of the asteroid belt's most intriguing and dissimilar occupants: asteroid Vesta and the dwarf planet Ceres.

The Dawn mission is managed by JPL, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington, D.C.



■ **Fire Danger** — Due to the increasing potential of wild land fires on the spaceport, Fire Rescue Services directs that **all off-road travel be reduced**. If mission or work requirements require off-road travel, you are **required** to notify the Fire Department at 867-2091 for KSC, and 853-9253 for CCAFS prior to that off-road travel. If you are off-road for any activity, please do not park your vehicle in tall brush or grass due to the potential ignition source of the catalytic converter on the vehicle.

■ **NASA Science** — A miniature biological laboratory important to the future of space exploration has just passed an

important test onboard the International Space Station. Called LOCAD-PTS (short for Lab-On-a-Chip Application Development-Portable Test System), the mini-lab detects the presence of bacteria or fungi on the surfaces of a spacecraft far more rapidly than standard methods of culturing. To read more about it, go to [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/06apr\\_locad2.htm?list947891](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/06apr_locad2.htm?list947891).

### ■ Information Needed of Engineering, Scientific Accomplishments

— The shuttle program is soliciting information about technological, engineering, manufacturing and scientific innovations developed by KSC for the shuttle program to be published in a book summarizing shuttle program accomplishments. A section of this book will be dedicated to the innovations and accomplishments by KSC ground operations and processing. Please submit a **few lines** by e-mail no later than **April 18** on any innovation or unique capability that KSC developed for the shuttle program and a point of contact who, if selected, would write the technical details.

E-mails should be sent to [Steven.J.Sullivan@nasa.gov](mailto:Steven.J.Sullivan@nasa.gov), [Shaun.L.Green@nasa.gov](mailto:Shaun.L.Green@nasa.gov) or [Christopher.J.lannello@nasa.gov](mailto:Christopher.J.lannello@nasa.gov).



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